

the commencement of the term of President, Vice President, and Members of Congress, and fixing the time of the assembling of Congress.

For many years the long delays in needed legislation and prompt administration have caused thoughtful Statesmen to urge a change in the fundamental laws so that less time would intervene between the election of and the inauguration of a new President and a new Congress. Several times one branch of Congress has voted to submit such an amendment to the States, only to have a reform stayed in the other branch. The Senate of the United States in recent years has voted several times for submission of an amendment to shorten the interval between the election and the taking of office. Upon the organization of the Seventy-second Congress, the Norris Amendment, coming over from the Senate, received the approval of the House. Now, as soon as three-fourths of the States vote approval of the pending Amendment to the Constitution, a new Chief Executive of the United States will be inaugurated on January 20 after his election in November, and the new Congress chosen in November will begin to function on the Third of January, the Amendment upon which Legislatures are to pass containing this provision;

"The terms of the President and Vice President shall end at Noon on the Twentieth day of January, and the terms of Senators and Representatives at Noon on the Third of January, of the years in which such terms would have ended if this Article had not been ratified; and the terms of their successors shall then begin.

When thirty-six States vote "Aye" the interval of marking time for four months will be no longer impede prompt obedience to the recorded mandates of the people.

The present critical situation emphasizes the arguments heretofore presented for advancing the time of inauguration of the President and the organization of Congress. In a period when from ocean to ocean the people are insistent that the pledges made in the Presidential campaign by the successful Party be immediately redeemed, a stalemate stands between their expectations and the realization of their desires. An outgoing Congress does not feel itself bound to follow the decrees of an election in which many of them were retired. The outgoing President, not in sympathy with important items of the program of the President-elect, feels no compulsion to change the policies or the convictions which have controlled his action during his term of office. It has, therefore, often happened, that between November and March there is an impasse period. In ordinary times this is to be deplored, but in crucial days like these in which we are now living, it is serious. Delay halts action, and failure of quick action tends to destroy hope and faith and united effort. The sooner the change is made the sooner will government function without lost motion.

This Amendment now submitted to the General Assembly of North Carolina has already been ratified by the General Assemblies of the fifteen States which have been in Session since the action of Congress. Nowhere has any real opposition been voiced to what is regarded as an overdue reform. I earnestly trust that this General Assembly will give immediate con-